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iNACOL Releases Part 2 of Going Virtual Study: “*Going Virtual! Unique Needs and Challenges of K-12 Online Teachers*”

Vienna, VA, November 13, 2007 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) released the results of the second phase of the research study in partnership with Boise State University, *Going Virtual! Unique Needs and Challenges of K-12 Online Teachers*.

This year’s report identifies the experience, skills and unique backgrounds of K-12 online teachers and takes into account both 1) the context of the program or school in which the teacher works, and 2) the amount of experience the teacher has in online teaching.

This report extends the current knowledge base about professional development for K-12 online teachers by identifying what knowledge and skills K-12 online teachers need.

Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL, said, “This report is groundbreaking because it establishes a foundation for future research examining the effectiveness of professional development for K-12 online teachers.”

The report outlines the results from phase two of the *Going Virtual!* study series conducted by Kerry Rice, Lisa Dawley, Crystal Gasell and Chris Florez from Boise State University.

According to Lisa Dawley, "As iNACOL continues to support research on best practices in K-12 online education and teaching, we are excited that this study provides insight from the perspective of online teachers across the country. This knowledge helps us refine our evolving standards for online teachers, as well as define effective strategies for their professional development."

Support for the report was provided by Connections Academy in partnership with Boise State University. Lisa Dawley also serves on the Board of Directors for iNACOL. Kerry Rice serves on the iNACOL Research Committee.

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About iNACOL

iNACOL is the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. iNACOL is a non-profit association that believes online learning is a powerful innovation that expands education opportunities (www.inacol.org). iNACOL supports access to high-quality online learning for all students. iNACOL hosts the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS); VSS 2009 will be held Nov. 15 – 17, 2009 in Austin, TX (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org). iNACOL was formerly known as the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL).

About Boise State University

Boise State University, a metropolitan research university of distinction, is the largest university in Idaho with an enrollment of more than 19,000 students. The Department of Educational Technology is the largest graduate program on campus, specializing in online teaching, school technology integration, and e-learning design.